

August 20, 2003

Public Notice for 401 Certification

**Replacement of Maacama and Redwood Creek Bridges
WDID No. 1B03136WNSO
Sonoma County**

On July 21, 2003, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (hereinafter Regional Water Board) received an application from Ms. Lilian Acorda on behalf of the California Department of Transportation (hereinafter applicant), requesting Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the replacement of Redwood Creek Bridge (No. 20-43), located at Postmile 21.80, and Maacama Creek Bridge (No. 20-41), located at Postmile 17.30, north of Calistoga on State Highway 128 in Sonoma County. The proposed bridge replacements will cause disturbances to Waters of the United States associated with Geyserville Hydrologic Subarea No. 114.25.

The applicant proposes to modify the bridges by widening the traffic lanes from 10 feet to 12 feet, enlarging the shoulders of the road to 8 feet in width, and widening bridge approaches. To allow access to the creeks, the applicant will construct a temporary roadway. Temporary fill pads, with a central channel for fish passage will be used as structural support for the roadway. In addition, to allow access to the bridge, temporary scaffolding will be constructed in the dry portions of the streambeds. All temporary structures within the stream channels will be removed prior to October 15 each year. The projects will permanently impact 0.0011 acres of wetlands and 0.036 acres of stream channel. In addition, 0.56 acres of stream channel will be temporarily impacted.

To minimize impacts to aquatic life, work within the creek banks will not begin until after June 15. The applicant is proposing to remove a total of 114 trees in both project sites. Trees that are to be saved will be marked off with fencing to prevent their inadvertent destruction, and standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to minimize detrimental environmental impacts caused by the project. Equipment will be operated outside the stream channels. To prevent debris falling into the creeks, the creeks will be temporarily covered prior to bridge demolition. All disturbed areas will be vegetated with native grasses between construction phases. Bridge abutments at Redwood Creek will be constructed outside of the ordinary high water mark of the creeks. Two abutments will be placed in Maacama Creek.

Disturbed areas will be re-contoured and planted for erosion control. Removed vegetation will be replaced following completion of construction.

No compensatory mitigation has been proposed for this project. The Regional Water Board will not issue a 401 Permit until a mitigation plan has been submitted by the applicant and approved by this office.

The applicant has applied for Nationwide Permits Nos. 14 and 33 from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, pursuant to the Clean Water Act, Section 404. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been adopted for this project (SCH No. 2003052113 6/30/03). The applicant has applied for a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1603 Permit) from California Department of Fish and Game.

Construction is scheduled in two phases between June 15, 2004 and October 15, 2006.

Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mona Dougherty by phone at (707) 570-3761, or e-mail doug@rbl.swrcb.ca.gov within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

(MSD_maacamaredwood)